# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1451
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2000
ISSUES IN WTO
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether environment and labour are non-trade issues in WTO; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government have initiated to delink such issues in WTO?

## Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)
(a) & (b) : The linkage between trade and environment has been under discussion in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) since 1995 as mandated by the Marrakesh Decision on Trade and Environment.India, in coordination with other like-minded countries, has effectively opposed any modifications in the existing WTO Rules as have been proposed by some developed countries. The linkage between trade and labour standards was proposed by some developed countries in the First Ministerial Conference of the WTO at Singapore in 1996 as well as in the Third Ministerial Conference of the WTO at Seattle in 1999India, in coordination with other like-minded countries, had effectively opposed the inclusion of this linkage in both the Conferences.